

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended. The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Bella and Rahmjoo at the interview held March 4 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute the record of the interview.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ueda (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,860); and claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chernock (U.S. Patent No. 6,229,524). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither Ueda nor Chernock, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests an image generating system including at least an object determination means which determines parts objects within a predetermined area in the aggregate object as objects to be changed in display form when an impact is applied to the aggregate object thereby simulating breakage of the aggregate object where at least one part object physically separates from the aggregate object as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 9.

Ueda discloses at col. 4, lines 44-64 that in a lattice color space, for example, colors of green grass are distributed in region I and colors of blue sky are distributed in region II. There are cases where the green grass colors should not be converted into exactly the same colors, but should be converted into a green color thought of as typical for green grass. Similarly, there are the cases where the blue sky colors should not be converted into exactly the same colors but should be converted into a blue color thought of as typically for blue skies.

According to Ueda, those regions I and II are discriminated from the remaining region 0.

Nowhere does Ueda disclose or even suggest simulating breakage of the aggregate object where at least one part object physically separates from the aggregate object.

Therefore, Ueda does not disclose or suggest the features of independent claims 1 and 9.

Chernock does not make up for the above deficiencies of Ueda. Chernock merely discloses a user interface for interaction with video, where, to view a hot spot 60 for a next selectable object, the viewer would press the tab key 6 located on the remote control unit 5 and the next object in the priority sequence. See, for example, Figs. 2 and 3, and col. 5, lines 55-61.

However, Chernock does not teach or suggest objects to be changed in display form when an impact is applied to the aggregate object thereby simulating breakage of the aggregate object where at least one part object physically separates from the aggregate object.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 9 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-8 and 10-16 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

I. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 25, 2004

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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